



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/601,063	10/09/2003	Herve Scelers	GP-302694	5517

7590 01/13/2006

CHRISTOPHER DEVRIES
General Motors Corporation
Legal Staff, Mail Code 482-C23-B21
P.O. Box 300
Detroit, MI 48265-3000

EXAMINER

TO, TUAN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3663

DATE MAILED: 01/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 recites the limitation "wheel speed acceleration" in claim 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

Claim 1, 2, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Hirao et al. (US 5636909A).

With respect to claim 1, Hirao et al. directs to a traction control system having at least one non-driven wheel sensor (Hirao et al., column 8, lines 46-50), in which the

Art Unit: 3663

wheel speed difference is detected and is compared to a predetermined value in order to detect vehicle wheel slip (Hirao et al., column 2, lines 50-55). In response to the detected wheel slip, the wheel torque is reduced (Hirao et al., column 2, lines 50-55).

With regard to claim 2, Hirao et al. directs to a traction control system having at least one non-driven wheel sensor (Hirao et al., column 8, lines 46-50), in which the wheel speed of either driven-wheels or non-driven wheels are detected (Hirao et al., column 8, lines 46-50).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to

Art Unit: 3663

consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over in view of Hirao et al. (US 5636909A) and in view of Koga et al. (US 6505139B1).

As set forth in this office action, the Hirao et al. reference reads on the limitations as recited in claim 1 except for the following: "specifying a transmission speed ratio based on a current vehicle speed; and providing a line pressure in the transmission based on the specified speed ratio".

Koga et al. has been cited to overcome the missing features from Hirao et al. by teaching a typical traction control system for a vehicle including "specifying a transmission speed ratio based on a current vehicle speed; and providing a line pressure in the transmission based on the specified speed ratio (Koga et al., column 3, lines 32-39).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Hirao et al. to include the teachings as taught by Koga et al. in order to improve traction control while the vehicle driver suddenly accelerate or decelerate the vehicle.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14, 21, and 22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The final rejection filed on 09/23/2004 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-14, 21, and 22 are allowable since none of the prior art has been found teaches or suggests the limitations as recited in claims 7 and 21.

Claims 3 and 6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusions

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tuan C To whose telephone number is (571) 272-6985. The examiner can normally be reached on from 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Keith can be reached on 571-272-6878.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

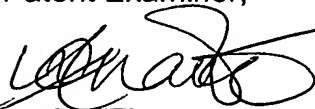
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/601,063

Page 6

Art Unit: 3663

Patent Examiner,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuan C To', written over a horizontal line.

Tuan C To

January 09, 2006